



**City of Milwaukee
2019-20 Federal Legislative Priorities
116th Congress**

Office of Intergovernmental Relations (IRD) Contacts:

Kimberly Montgomery, Director of Intergovernmental Relations
414-256-8564 kimberly.montgomery@milwaukee.gov

Jim Bohl, Legislative Fiscal Manager-Sr.
414-286-8564 jabohl@milwaukee.gov

Danielle Decker, Legislative Fiscal Manager
414-286-5589 ddecke@milwaukee.gov

Brenda Wood, Intergovernmental Policy Manager for the Common Council
414-286-2371 bwood@milwaukee.gov

Key Local Priorities for 2019-2020:

1. Ensure high-quality water is accessible to all Milwaukeeans through vigorous community engagement and access to local, state, and federal resources to address lead service lines.
2. Continue robust economic development and neighborhood revitalization through local-state-federal collaboration and expansion of public-private partnerships.
3. Support our police department in its continued focus on neighborhood policing through ongoing cooperation with federal law enforcement.
4. Support long-term funding for local infrastructure needs that sustain everyday life.

Key City Positions:

1. Honor all awarded federal grants to municipalities.
2. Retain current eligibility criteria for all existing grant programs.
3. Support additional infrastructure allocations directly to municipalities.
4. Maintain all current federal funding opportunities available to municipalities.
5. Preserve all direct appropriations received by municipalities.
6. Honor all ongoing administrative contracts between federal agencies and municipalities.
7. Enact comprehensive criminal justice reform.
8. Oppose any efforts to preempt local authority.

Key Positions on Anticipated Federal Legislation of 2019 - 2020:

1. Support of the Federal Equality Act of 2019, to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to expand the group of prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system
2. Support the environmental and economic provisions of the “Green New Deal” legislation.
3. Support U.S. Senate Bill 1389, known as the Loan Shark Prevention Act, to propose establishment of a maximum national usury rate of 15% on credit cards and other consumer loans.
4. Enact the Butch Lewis Act, to help preserve pension benefits for retirees who belong to financially distressed multi-employer pension plans.
5. Enact legislation to federally prohibit the practice of conversion therapy.
6. Support proposed legislation to amend section 249 of title 18 of the U.S. Code to specify that lynching is a federal hate crime act that would warrant enhanced sentencing under hate crimes statutes.

7. Support legislation to prevent morbidity and mortality in maternity care, and address maternal health care, by eliminating disparities for women of color, support states in eradicating maternal deaths, and compel nursing and medical schools to offer implicit bias training programs.
8. Support for the Community Reinvestment Act and further efforts to modernize the law without undermining its initial goal and intent.
9. Support the Mamas First Act to make services of doulas, midwives eligible for Medicaid coverage.
10. Oppose any attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act and support Medicaid expansion to the states.
11. Support the American Family Act of 2019 to make the child tax credit fully refundable and further establishes an increased tax credit for young children.

PRIORITIES BY FEDERAL AGENCY:

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Make significant investments in urban agriculture and ecological innovation targeted at cities to better address urban food deserts.
- Provide federal assistance for Emerald Ash Borer inoculation and control.
- Continue funding the federal Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP) and permit using SNAP dollars to purchase prepared juice products.

Department of Commerce (DOC)

- Maintain the Economic Development Administration's grants program.
- Support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea grant which would affect our University system as well as the health of the Great Lakes eco-system and economic wellbeing.
- Fund Milwaukee's 30th Industrial Corridor through multi-lateral improvements including infrastructure updates, workforce development, incentives for private development, and sustainable energy resources.
- Continue to fund the National Telecommunications & Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program.
- Provide robust appropriations for localities to conduct 2020 Census surveys, and ensure upholding of Supreme Court decision regarding citizenship question.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- Support a minimum in \$1.3 billion in funding for the Army Corps of Engineers, which dredges our ports and serves as a critical partner to local and regional agencies including the Port Authority and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.
- Appropriate funds for Soo Locks to enable maritime travel between Lake Superior and the Great Lakes.

Department of Education (DoED)

- Institutionalize funding for the My Brother's Keeper initiative and provide a direct federal appropriation to support the work of the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative
- Continue support for the E-rate program to assist schools in obtaining affordable internet services.
- Increase direct support for public libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).
- Preserve the TRIO educational opportunity programs serving students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Fund universal preschool across the nation.
- Expand student loan forgiveness and debt cancellation policies under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- Reinstatement of the Clean Power Plan, which would require local utilities to invest in renewable energy.
- Maintain current DOE grant programs to support local investments in clean, sustainable energy.
- Support municipal-led Energy Efficiency financing programs.
- Designate the Milwaukee region and Midwest Energy Research Consortium as the next National Manufacturing Institute for Smart Energy Manufacturing.
- Preserve the Weatherization Assistance Program which benefits City constituents through services administered by local nonprofits UMOS and Community Advocates.
- Support reauthorization of the Energy and Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to provide \$3.5 billion annually over the next five fiscal years.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Maintain support for the Brownfields grant and technical assistance programs.
- Preserve the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative including its \$300 million in annual funding.
- Support an increase to \$2.3 billion for the State Revolving Loan Funds, an increase beyond the current continuing resolution annualized rate.
- Maintain the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program – the City utilizes \$14.9million in these funds each year.
- Maintain the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds and maintain the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), which maintained the annualized 2017 rate of \$20 million in funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.
- Maintain commercial availability of the Chicago Area Waterway System while protecting against Aquatic Nuisance species.
- Ensure full funding for Great Lakes pollution cleanup and accelerate efforts to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- Preserve Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grants created as part of the Affordable Care Act and increase overall budget for the CDC's essential infectious diseases outbreak work
- Provide continued support for the Women, Infants, and Children food and nutrition service.
- Increase funding for HIV treatment and prevention, including services for targeted at-risk populations and expanded community education.
- Provide funding for mental health services and opioid addiction.
- Mandate medically accurate, comprehensive sex education in American high schools.
- Increase funding for local governments to identify and curb opioid use.
- Increase funding for the Title V Block Grant, to support local capacity building to address systemic factors leading to preventable maternal and infant mortality.
- Request additional funding by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide federal funding to allow municipalities to enhance foodborne pathogen monitoring by implementing new technologies.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- Oppose any effort to ban foreign entry based solely on racial, ethnic, or religious considerations.
- Preserve the Port Security grants allocated to the Police Department and Port Authority.
- Restore funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program to Milwaukee; the City has not received funding from the UASI program since 2011.
- Increase funding for Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants.
- Expand the fiscal cap on 5,000 T visas (trafficking) and 10,000 U Visas (domestic violence) to promote safer neighborhoods and cooperative communities.

- Support the continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program as a temporary solution until Comprehensive Immigration Reform is achieved.
- Provide FEMA pre-disaster planning funding to assess the safety and economic risks of urban flooding.
- Create consistent national standards for the regulation of ships' ballast water and establish clear and exclusive federal jurisdiction over ballast water regulation to be administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Support HERO Act legislation to provide first responders with the necessary mental health resources necessary to stay safe and healthy in stressful work environments like firefighting and EMS services.
- Develop a clear administrative, executive, or legislative policy to provide a clear process to reunite separated children and parents who are detained while crossing the U.S. – Mexico border.
- Oppose the Administration's proposed "public charge" rule regarding benefits for immigrants.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Support a \$20 million increase to the current annualized rate of \$130 million to HUD for mitigation of lead-based paint and other hazards in low-income homes, focusing on homes where children reside.
- Protect the Community Development Block Grant – the City received \$15.8 million in FY18; the HOME Investment Partnerships Program– the City received \$5.96 million in FY18, and preserve our \$30 million multi-year Choice grant dedicated to revitalizing Westlawn public housing.
- Expand funding to address various lead prevention, abatement, and hazard reduction programs
- Safeguard our Section 8 Rental Assistance– the City annually receives \$38 million for this program.
- Protect our \$9 million administrative contributions contract allowing the Housing Authority to operate.
- Re-establish the Renewal Communities tax credit program
- Maintain support for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NeighborWorks)
- Expand eligibility for the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program to borrowers at risk of losing their home to tax foreclosure.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- Maintain support for the Institute, which provides the State of Wisconsin with approximately \$3 million in support annually. Libraries in the City of Milwaukee receive funds to provide greater learning resources for students living in poverty.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

- Reinstate the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants previously awarded to the Milwaukee Police Department - allowing us to maintain our sworn strength levels.
- Oppose any effort to penalize "sanctuary jurisdictions" by withholding federal funding.
- Maintain all Office of Justice Program grants, including the Byrne Memorial grants program, an integral county-city partnership.
- Maintain the Office of Violence Against Women, including all grants and technical assistance programs and provide a dedicated funding stream to support local violence prevention measures
- Provide resources and grant incentives to encourage states to bring 17-year old juvenile offenders back into the juvenile justice system as opposed to the adult correctional system.
- Provide resources to expand state and local laboratory capacity to screen and confirm opioid drugs.
- Provide federal grant dollars to expand the Treatment Alternative Diversion (TAD) program in cities.
- Require the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to include voter restoration and registration as part of its planning program preparing inmates for re-entry into society.

Department of Labor (DOL)

- Provide expanded investments in low-skilled and transitional jobs training for unemployed and underemployed Milwaukeeans.
- Expand investments in apprentice and vocational training with an emphasis on training for the needs of

- City-based employers and regional manufacturers.
- Expand Training programs training vouchers or Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker/Rapid Response training allowances.

Legal Services Corporation (LSC)

- Milwaukee's victims of domestic violence are served through Legal Action of Wisconsin, which is a subgrantee of the City's Violence Against Women federal grant funding.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

- Maintain support for the NEA, which has supported the City of Milwaukee through financial support of the MKE Plays program, dedicated to building new playgrounds for children in historically underserved neighborhoods.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

- Maintain all current SBA loan opportunities, including for Minority Owned businesses

Department of State (DOS)

- Maintain funding levels for State Department and USAID, which provides support for our research institutions including Marquette University.
- Leverage diplomacy to maintain a robust export economy – the greater Milwaukee region is responsible for 32.6% of state exports (2017 figures from the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce).
- Formally condemn the slave trade in Libya and urge the Administration to take the steps necessary to eradicate this practice.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

- Expand direct appropriations of federal funding for large-scale urban transportation and bridge projects.
- Preserve the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant program, including funding for both the New Starts and Small Starts projects.
- Secure BUILD) grants to support the City's expansion of the HOP streetcar prior to the Democratic National Convention and expand funds for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) programs.
- Expand funding for DOT's Surface Transportation Program for both street infrastructure and local transit and workforce development initiatives, including designating funds to revitalize the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP).
- Expand funding opportunities for federal highway aid and federal bridge programs.
- Designate the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as a TIER 1 University Transportation Center.
- Support revised protections to improve the safe transport of hazardous materials, including crude oil, on our nation's rail systems.
- Support rigorous inspection by the Federal Railroad Administration of railroad tracks, crossings, and bridges on which Bakken crude oil is transported.
- Oppose any reduction of Amtrak's long-distance passenger train services including the Hiawatha and fund Milwaukee-Madison and Chicago-Milwaukee-Twin Cities service expansions as well as maintain the existing 15 long-distance train routes currently operating.
- Maintain a national railroad passenger network including the 15 existing long distance trains currently operating within Amtrak system and support the addition of a Chicago-Milwaukee-Twin Cities route.
- Advocate for Federal Highway Administration design flexibility to reduce the required size and scope of the I-94 East-West reconstruction project.

- Reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to use unspent funds under the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants to continue funding the Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) program.
- Secure a Port Infrastructure Development Grant to establish a maritime routing for liquid bulk cargo from Port Milwaukee to Green Bay.

Department of the Treasury (TREAS)

- Amend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to require that permitting of “Current Refundings” be changed to within one year of the redemption rate of Prior Bonds, providing more local flexibility.
- Amend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to add public reporting requirements to regulations regarding Qualified Opportunity Funds, providing capital gains tax incentives for investors who finance projects in low-income census tracts.
- Amend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to allow fire sprinklers systems to qualify for an accelerated depreciation schedule.
- Maintain the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) and institute a competitive funding methodology for grant selection.
- Expand the eligibility of the New Market Tax Credits program, including restoring competitive funding methodology for grant selection.
- Through the US Army Corps of Engineers, maintain the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and require the Harbor Maintenance Tax surplus of \$9.5 billion to be used to address the backlog of Great Lakes ports dredging projects.
- Support the exemption the movement of non-bulk cargo from the U.S. Harbor Maintenance Tax to encourage the movement of freight from congested surface transportation systems to marine alternatives.
- Preserve the Tax Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds.
- Support funding for the Export-Import Bank including authorization of full lending powers.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

- Maintain support for the NEA, which has supported the City of Milwaukee through financial support of the MKE Plays program, dedicated to building new playgrounds for children in historically underserved neighborhoods.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

- Maintain support for the Council in which the City is an active participant in peer-to-peer networking and sharing of best practices.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- Expand funding dedicated to wraparound services supporting veterans and military families, including enhanced support for mental health services, drug-addiction and rehabilitative services.